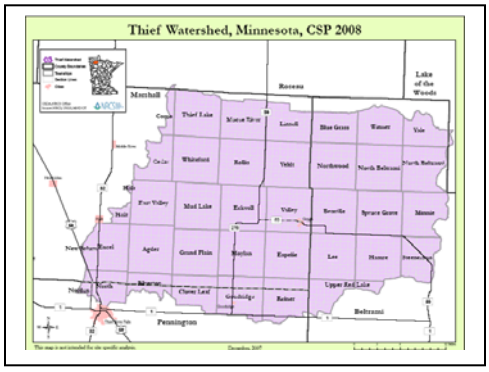
Conservation Security Program

Minnesota Benchmark Condition Inventory



2008 CSP Sign-up

Thief Watershed

Applicant: _____

Farm Name: _____

Table of Contents

Please complete all applicable forms listed below prior to your follow-up interview with NRCS.

Maps Identifying Your Entire Agricultural Operation

You must provide maps clearly identifying your entire agricultural operation, including the farmstead. An agricultural operation includes ALL LAND, whether contiguous or non-contiguous, under the control of the applicant, and constituting a cohesive management unit that is operated with equipment, labor, accounting system, and management that are substantially separate from any other. *To be in control of the land, you must be in possession of the land by ownership, lease, or agreement; and have the authority to act as decision maker for the management and operation of the land. If applying for CSP as an entity, you will need to provide NRCS with written documentation that you have authority to make decisions for the entity.*

Understanding the CSP Benchmark Condition Inventory

As part of the application process, you are required to provide additional information as outlined in the following worksheets. By signing the Applicant Offer Certification Worksheet, Appendix B of the Self Assessment Workbook, you are certifying that the information provided in the following worksheets is accurate to the best of your knowledge. Furthermore, the evaluation of the land you offer for enrollment in CSP is based on the typical system information you represent and provide to NRCS in the CSP Self-Assessment, the Minnesota Benchmark Condition Inventory, and during the Applicant Interview.

Delineation of Agricultural Operation Worksheet

List the farm identification (i.e., farm name or farm number) and associated tract numbers or field names, along with the number of acres, which are part of your agricultural operation. The farm identification and associated field identification should be clearly marked on associated maps. If the land is rented, please provide documentation showing that you have control of the land for the life of the contract (see the Control of Land Documentation Sheet, page 6).

The delineation of the agricultural operation must include ALL LAND, whether contiguous or non-contiguous, under the control of the applicant, and constituting a cohesive management unit that is operated with equipment, labor, accounting system, and management that are substantially separate from any other. The minimum size of an agricultural operation is a field.

Farm Identification (Farm Name, Farm Number)	Field Identification (Tract Number, Field Number)	Acres

Acres Offered for Enrollment in CSP Worksheet

Please list the farm numbers and associated tract numbers or field names that you wish to offer for enrollment in CSP. You do not have to use FSA farm number or tract numbers. You can use other identifiers as long as they are clearly marked on associated maps.

□ Check here if you wish to offer your entire agricultural operation for enrollment in CSP. By checking this box, you are acknowledging that you wish to submit an application for Tier II or Tier III.

For Tier I, you must meet the minimum eligibility requirements for Soil Quality and Water Quality on a portion of your agricultural operation. For Tier II, you must meet the minimum eligibility requirements for Soil Quality and Water Quality on your entire agricultural operation and agree to address one additional resource concern by the end of your contract. For Tier III, you must meet the minimum eligibility requirements for all resource concerns on your entire agricultural operation, including your production areas.

Farm Identification (Farm Name, Farm Number)	Field Identification (Tract Number, Field Number)

Control of Land Documentation Worksheet

(Make additional copies of this worksheet if you rent land from multiple landowners.)

I, _____, as landowner of Farm #/Tract # _____, do hereby certify that _____will be operating my land for _____ years (the length of the Conservation Security Program contract).

For the above described land unit that I own, I provide my assurance that the above Tenant will have control of this land and has the authority to act as decision maker for the management and operation of this land for the purpose of satisfying the terms and conditions of a Conservation Stewardship Contract for the proposed contract period.

If there are any owner/operator changes on this farm/tract, I agree to notify, in writing, the local NRCS County Service Center office immediately.

Landowner Signature _____

Date _____

Crop Rotation Benchmark Inventory

The following worksheet is for documentation purposes. This worksheet is not mandatory; however, you must provide similar information during the interview process in an organized manner.

Crop Rotation: ________________________ Farm/Tract: ________________________ Field Number: ______________________

Crop:_________________________________
Average Yield: ________________________

☐Fall plow, spring disk, spring field cultivate, plant
☐Fall chisel, spring disk, spring field cultivate, plant
☐Fall chisel, spring disk, plant
☐Fall chisel, spring field cultivate, plant
☐Fall field cultivate, plant
☐Spring plow, spring disk, spring field cultivate, plant
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☐Spring chisel, spring field cultivate, plant
☐Spring disk, spring field cultivate, plant
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☐No-Till
☐Strip-Till
☐Ridge-Till
☐Other ________________________________

If you chisel please select what types of points do you use?
☐Straight points
☐Twisted points
☐Sweeps

What do you do with crop residue? (ex. Winter Wheat)
☐Bale residue
☐Leave residue

Do you apply anhydrous?
☐Yes – When:___________________________
☐No

Do you apply manure?
☐Yes – When:__________________________
☐No

Solid ____ tons/ac.
☐Surface applied – When:________________
☐Incorporated – When:__________________

Liquid ____ gallons/ac.
☐Surface applied – When:_________________
☐Incorporated – When:___________________

Crop:_________________________________
Average Yield: ________________________

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☐Surface applied – When:_________________
☐Incorporated – When:___________________

Liquid ____ gallons/ac.
☐Surface applied – When:_________________
☐Incorporated – When:___________________

Water Quality Benchmark Inventory

The following worksheets are for documentation purposes. These worksheets are not mandatory; however, you must provide similar information during the interview process in an organized manner.

Soil Test Results
Must be analyzed by a recognized land grant university or private laboratory using methods approved by the land grant university for the purposes of determining amount of nutrients needed for crop/plant production.

Field	Sample Date	Organic Matter (%)	pH	Buffer Index	N Lbs/ac	P PPM	K PPM	Other Nutrients		
								____ PPM	____ PPM	____ PPM

Fertilizer Application Inventory

Crop / Yield Goal	**Previous Crop / Yield or Quality**	**Nutrient Source** Manure or Commercial Fertilizer	***Timing*[1]**	***Method*[2]**	***Application Rate*[3]**	***Analysis*[4]**		
					Lbs, Gallons, or Tons / Ac	N	P_2O_5	K_2O

Comments:

1. For Example: Fall Pre-Plant, Spring Pre-plant, Planting
2. For Example: Broadcast (BC), Knife, Starter in Row ,and Side dress for fertilizer; and broadcast incorporate or no incorporate or sweep or knife inject for manure
3. Rate is product rate and not rate of N, P_2O_5 or K_2O.
4. Analysis is % for commercial fertilizer and lbs./ton or 1000 gal. for manure

Pesticide Application Inventory

Crop	Target Pest(s) (Weeds, Insects, Disease, Etc.)	Product(s) Used and Other Controls[1]	*Formulation*	*Timing*[2]	*Method*[3]	*Application Rate (per acre)*

Comments:

1. *For Example: Herbicides, Insecticides, Crop cultivation, Rotary hoeing, Flame weeding*
2. *For Example: Spring Pre-plant, Planting, Pre-emerge, Post-emerge*
3. *For Example: Broadcast, Band*

Manure Application Inventory

	Manure Source #1	Manure Source #2	Manure Source #3	*Example*
				Dairy Barn
Livestock Information				
Species				1400 lb. Dairy Cows
Annual Number				50
Species				Dairy heifers
Annual Number				7
Storage Information				
Storage Type				Above ground tank
Capacity				500000 gallons
Storage Length				6 months
Application Information				
Handling Method				Liquid
Commercial Hauler				No
Spreader Type[1]				slurry tanker
When Applied[2]				Spring and fall
Application Method[3]				Knife inject
Incorporation Timing[4]				Immediate
Spreader Calibrated				Yes
Normal (n) or Calibrated (c) Application Rate				11000 gal/ac (c)
Manure Analysis				
Date Analyzed				10/99
N				24
P_2O_5				18
K_2O				29
Date Analyzed				
N				
P_2O_5				
K_2O				

1. "Spreader types" are: Slurry tanker, Solids Spreader, Towed Hose, Center Pivot, Other Sprinkler
2. "When applied" choices are: Daily, Every other day, Weekly, Every 2 weeks, Monthly, Fall, Spring, Summer, Winter
3. "Application Method" choices are: Surface Broadcast, Sweep Inject, Knife Inject
4. "Incorporation Timing" choices are: <12 Hours, 12-96 hours, > 96 hours, Immediate
5. "Acres Covered" are the average acres covered when the storage system is emptied after an average storage time interval.

Water Quality Benchmark Inventory - Example

Soil Test Results

Must be analyzed by a recognized land grant university or private laboratory using methods approved by the land grant university for the purposes of determining amount of nutrients needed for crop/plant production.

Field	Sample Date	Organic Matter (%)	pH	Buffer Index	N Lbs/ac	P PPM	K PPM	Other Nutrients		
								_____ PPM	_____ PPM	_____ PPM
1A	10/98	2.5	6.3	6.7		17	138	.80		
1B	10/99	2.9	6.6			12	153			
2	10/99	2.8	6.1			16	78		1533	283
3	10/98	3.2	5.8	6.6		79	173	.75		
4	10/00	3.5	6.1	6.7		21	180			
5	10/00	2.6	7.5			12	148			

Fertilizer Application Inventory

Crop / Yield Goal	**Previous Crop / Yield or Quality**	**Nutrient Source** Manure or Commercial Fertilizer	***Timing*[1]**	***Method*[2]**	***Application Rate*[3]**	***Analysis*[4]**		
					Lbs, Gallons, or Tons / Ac	N	P_2O_5	K_2O
Corn 165 bu/ac	Corn 159 bu/ac	Dairy Pit	Fall	BC-inc<12 hrs	8000 gallons	32.9	12.5	32.2
		Comm Fertilizer	Starter	Row	120 lbs	9	23	30
		Comm Fertilizer	Pre-emerge w/ Herb	Surface BC	10 gallons	28	0	0
Corn 165 bu/ac	Soybeans 53 bu/ac	Comm Fertilizer	Starter	Row	120 lbs	9	23	30
		Comm Fertilizer	Fall	Knife	175 lbs	82	0	0
Corn 165 bu/ac	Alfalfa 2-3 plants/ft	Comm Fertilizer	Starter	Row	120 lbs	9	23	30
		Comm Fertilizer	Spring	BC and Incorp	150 lbs	46	0	0
Corn 165 bu/ac	Soybeans 48 bu/ac	Lot Manure	Fall/Spring	BC – No Incorp	20 tons	14.7	8.8	13.3
		Comm Fertilizer	Starter	Row	120 lbs	9	23	30
		Comm Fertilizer	Fall	Knife	130 lbs	82	0	0
Soybeans 50 bu/ac	Corn 168 bu/ac	None Applied						
Alfalfa 5 tons/ac	Alfalfa 5 tons/ac	Comm Fertilizer	In Season	BC – No Incrop	200 lbs	0	0	60

Comments:

1. For Example: Fall Pre-Plant, Spring Pre-plant, Planting
2. For Example: Broadcast (BC), Knife, Starter in Row ,and Side dress for fertilizer; and broadcast incorporate or no incorporate or sweep or knife inject for manure
3. Rate is product rate and not rate of N, P_2O_5 or K_2O.
4. Analysis is % for commercial fertilizer and lbs/ton or 1000 gal. for manure

Pesticide Application Inventory						
Crop	**Target Pest(s) (Weeds, Insects, Disease, Etc.)**	**Product(s) Used and Other Controls[1]**	***Formulation***	***Timing[2]***	***Method[3]***	***Application Rate (per acre)***
Corn Following Corn	Weeds	Surpass	EC	PPR	Broadcast	2.5 pints/acre
	Insects	Capture	2 EC	At Planting	Row	5 ounces/acre
	Weeds	Marksman		Post emerge	Broadcast	3 pints/acre
	Weeds	Cultivated 1x		Post emerge		
	Weeds	Surpass	EC	PPI	Broadcast	2.5 pints/acre
Corn Following Soybeans	Weeds	Outlook		PPI	Broadcast	21 ounces/acre
	Weeds	Distinct		Post emerge	Broadcast	4 ounces/acre
	Weeds	Cultivated 1x		Post emerge		
Corn Following Soybeans	Weeds	Harness Xtra		Pre-emerge	Broadcast	2 quarts/acre
	Weeds	Distinct		Post emerge	Broadcast	4 ounces/acre
	Insects	Pounce	3.2 EC	Post emerge	Broadcast	6 ounces/acre
	Weeds	Cultivated 2x				
Soybeans	Weeds	Roundup	UltraMax	Post emerge	Broadcast	24 ounces/acre
	Weeds	Roundup	UltraMax	Post emerge	Broadcast	20 ounces/acre
	Weeds	Cultivated 1x		Post emerge		
Peas	Weeds	Pursuit Plus	EC	PPI	Broadcast	30 ounces/acre
	Weeds	Flexstar		Post emerge	Broadcast	1.0 pint/acre
	Weeds	Cultivated 1x		Post emerge		
Comments:						
1. For Example: Herbicides, Insecticides, Crop cultivation, Rotary hoeing, Flame weeding *2. For Example: Spring Pre-plant, Planting, Pre-emerge, Post-emerge* *3. For Example: Broadcast, Band*						

Grazing Lands Inventory

The following worksheets are for documentation purposes. These worksheets are not mandatory; however, you must provide similar information during the interview process in an organized manner.

Livestock Type: List each herd separately				
Number	Kind/Class	Average Weight	Daily Forage Allocation	Daily Water Use

LIVESTOCK GRAZING RECORD

Year:

PADDOCK NUMBER	ANIMAL TYPE	ANIMAL NUMBER	ANIMAL WEIGHT	DATE IN	DATE OUT	DAYS GRAZED	FORAGE HEIGHT IN	FORAGE HEIGHT OUT	FORAGE REMOVED (LBS)

The following information must be documented on aerial maps:

SENSITIVE AREAS: Identify sensitive areas and locate them on the aerial photo.

FENCE: Locate existing fences on aerial photo. Indicate kind of fence and condition. Indicate property line fences, perimeter fences, and interior fences

Fence Type (Barbed Wire, Hi Tensile, etc)	Condition	Tract Number	Field Number	Location Type (Property Line, Perimeter, Interior, etc)

WATER: On the aerial maps, identify the locations of sources of water (ponds, streams, and springs), wells, and existing power sources. Identify any water livestock water systems and identify where the livestock get water during winter.

FORAGES: Identify the predominate forages in each pasture.

Field Number	Forage Type	Minimum Residual Stubble Height

GRAZING SYSTEM MANAGEMENT: Identify the locations of the sacrificial paddock(s) and the location of the travel lane(s) for the livestock.

- Does the operator utilize crop residues or stockpiled forages? Yes No

- Does the operator utilize annual crops for grazing? Yes No
  - If yes, which crops?

- Is hay made from the pasture? Yes No

- Are crop or hay acres used for additional pasture during the grazing season? Yes No
  - If yes, identify the location(s) on the aerial maps.

- Is overwintering done on the site? Yes No
  - If yes, identify the location on aerial maps.

Soil and Water Quality Checklist

The Soil and Water Quality Checklist is available in the CSP Self Assessment Workbook on pages 21 to 23.

CSP Grazing Lands Eligibility Checklist

The CSP Grazing Lands Eligibility Checklist is available in the CSP Self Assessment Workbook on pages 24 to 25.

CSP Wildlife Assessment (Tier III)

The CSP Wildlife Assessment will be reviewed during the interview process for applicants seeking enrollment in Tier III.

Water Quality Assessment for Production Areas (Tier III)

Place an “X” in the appropriate box next to each question. An “X” indicates “Yes”

☐ All areas associated with crop or livestock production, other than cropland fields or pastures (e.g. feedlots, storage sites etc), are protected from erosion caused by concentrated water.
- (No noticeable channels greater than 6 inches in depth).

☐ Fertilizer and pesticides are stored, handled, mixed and loaded to prevent well or surface water contamination.
- Unused or empty containers are disposed of properly.

☐ Hazardous wastes used in production activities are stored and disposed of in a safe manner.
- These wastes include building/wood maintenance products and vehicle /metal equipment maintenance products.

☐ Petroleum products are stored in a safe manner.

☐ Wastewater from production areas does not discharge into drainage ditches or other conduits to ground or surface waters.

☐ Manure and other animal by-products are stored in a manner that prevents pollution.
- This includes livestock yards.

☐ Commercial fertilizer and manure is applied with calibrated applicators.

☐ All abandoned wells in fields and pastures are properly sealed.

Additional Tier III Requirements

- All offered cropland must pass the Soil and Water Quality Eligibility Tool;
- Irrigated cropland and pastureland must have a water use index of at least 50;
- The entire agricultural operation must pass the Wildlife Assessment Tool;
- Grazed acres must pass the CSP Grazing Eligibility Tool and documentation must show that;
  - ✓ *Livestock numbers do not exceed the pasture's carrying capacity*
  - ✓ *Adequate food is available to meet livestock nutritional needs*
  - ✓ *There is an adequate water supply which is distributed to meet daily needs*
- All fields must have soil loss controlled to T;
- There should be no eroded channels;
- All streambank, major gully and/or ditch erosion should be contained;
- All farmsteads and feedlots must have adequate shelterbelts, where needed;
- There should be no unfiltered surface inlets;
- The operation must have living snow fences, where needed;
- Threatened and endangered species and species of concern, if identified on-site must be adequately protected;
- If present, invasive species and noxious weeds, as identified in the MN FOTG, must be addressed;
- Lands where fertilizer and pesticides are used must meet all NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) requirements for the Nutrient Management (590) and Pest Management (595);
- Successfully complete the "Water Quality Assessment for Production Areas" on page 17 that deals with production area and handling of products; and
- Livestock must not have direct unmanaged access to riparian areas.

In order to finalize your application, you will need to provide NRCS with the following information:

Power of Attorney Form

Request a Power of Attorney form from the NRCS Field Office or access the form online at the following website: http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/2008/csp08.html.

You will need a Power of Attorney form if anyone other than the applicant may be signing the documentation for payment. This includes a spouse and/or children. *If you have completed a Power of Attorney form through FSA, you still need to fill out a NRCS Power of Attorney form.*

Direct Deposit Form

Request a Direct Deposit Form (SF-1199A) from your local NRCS Field Office. You must have a current Direct Deposit Form on file with NRCS.

You have completed the Minnesota Benchmark Condition Inventory. To schedule an interview, contact the local USDA Service Center in your county.

County	NRCS Conservationist	E-Mail Address	Phone Number
Watershed Coordinator	Gwen Kappes	gwen.kappes@mn.usda.gov	218/745-4351
Beltrami	Larry Voltz	larry.voltz@mn.usda.gov	218/751-1942
Marshall	Gwen Kappes	gwen.kappes@mn.usda.gov	218/745-4351
Pennington	Kathy Fillmore	kathy.fillmore@mn.usda.gov	218/681-1612

You will need to bring the following information to the interview:

- ☐ *Minnesota Benchmark Condition Inventory;*
- ☐ *CSP Self-Assessment Workbook;*
- ☐ *Maps identifying your entire agricultural operation and the acres being offered into CSP; and*
- ☐ *Any additional information as requested in the Minnesota Benchmark Condition Inventory.*

This information MUST be complete or the interview WILL BE postponed. It is NOT the responsibility of NRCS to complete your application information.